



# CITY OF MANCHESTER

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **CITY OF MANCHESTER TO PROVIDE 2,000 FREE FLU SHOTS AS PART OF EMERGENCY EXERCISE**

The Manchester Health Department announced today that it will provide 2,000 free flu shots on Saturday, November 19, 2005 as part of a statewide emergency planning exercise.

On November 19, 2005, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the City of Manchester and its community partners will open and staff a routine flu clinic at Parkside Middle School, 75 Parkside Ave, on the City's West Side. At the same time, the City will open its Emergency Operations Center to test communications with the State EOC, Parkside clinic and other health care providers.

According to Fred Rusczek, Manchester's Public Health Director, "Every year we encourage the public to get a flu shot to help reduce their risk of acquiring the flu. In addition to frequent handwashing, getting a flu shot is one of the best ways to protect against influenza. The fact that we will be able to provide 2,000 free flu shots to the public on November 19<sup>th</sup> is extremely valuable in protecting the health of our community."

Chief Joe Kane, Manchester's Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director agrees. "Over the past couple of years, the City's Public Health Preparedness & Bioterrorism Advisory Council has developed plans to provide vaccinations to a large number of people in a short period of time should it ever become warranted. The exercise on November 19<sup>th</sup> will provide us a great opportunity to test our ability to execute this plan, while providing free flu shots in the process."

The flu clinic on November 19<sup>th</sup> will be open to all residents 18 years of age and older who reside in the greater Manchester area, and will follow the latest recommendations from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People attending the flu clinic on November 19<sup>th</sup> should:

Follow the traffic patterns identified by the Manchester Police Department.

Understand that this clinic may take slightly longer due to the number of people attending.

Wear loose-fitting clothes, so that the vaccine may be administered in the upper arm without interference.

**Understand that this is a typical yearly flu vaccine and will not protect against avian (or bird) flu.**

For information on the free flu clinic, please call 665-6844.

**END**